United Nations S/PV.6132

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6132nd meeting

Friday, 29 May 2009, noon
New York

President:	Mr. Churkin	(Russian Federation)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Tiendrébéogo
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Skračić
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Turkey	Mr. İlkin
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Mr. McBride
	Viet Nam	Mr. Bui The Giang

Agenda

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2009/248)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2009/248)

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/276, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2009/248, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it.

I should like to inform the Council that the presidency of the Council has met with the representatives of the parties, who have confirmed that they maintain their well-known positions vis-à-vis the item on the Council's agenda. On the basis of those meetings, with the consent of the members of the Council, the presidency has drawn the conclusion that the Council can proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Austria, Burkina Faso, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Russian Federation, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Viet Nam

Against:

Turkey

The President (*spoke in Russian*): The result of the voting is as follows: 14 votes in favour and one vote against. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 1873 (2009).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Mr. İlkin (Turkey): Having voted against the draft resolution today, I would like to briefly share with the Council the reasons that compelled us to do so. First of all, I wish to recall and underline that the partnership State established by the 1959 London and Zurich Treaties in the shape of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of Cyprus collapsed in 1963, when the Greek Cypriots forcefully expelled the Turkish Cypriots from all State institutions, including the Government. Since that day, there has not been a joint and constitutional government representing the whole of Cyprus, either legally or functionally, and the two peoples have been living separately under their own administrations.

As Council members know, resolution 186 (1964) setting up the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) following the Greek Cypriot armed offensive against the Turkish Cypriots and the subsequent Council resolutions extending the mandate of the Force could not be accepted by the Turkish Cypriot side or, as one of the guarantors of Cyprus, by Turkey.

The main reason for that has been the references made in all of these resolutions to the Government of Cyprus, which, in reality, has been representing only the Greek Cypriots since 1963. As a direct consequence of this, consent of the Turkish Cypriot side has never been formally sought, whereas UNFICYP should have functioned with the open consent of both parties on the island. Actually, this wrong approach — to consider the Government of Cyprus as the sole Government of the whole island — has unfortunately been the main obstacle on the way to finding a just, lasting and comprehensive solution for over 45 years.

Turkey has never objected to the intent behind the establishment of UNFICYP, which was to protect the Turkish Cypriots. Our objection has always been to the way these resolutions are adopted and the language they contained. Yet, thanks to the spirit of goodwill and cooperation displayed by the Turkish Cypriot side, UNFICYP has been functioning in the northern part of the island, in accordance with the modalities set by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

It is for these reasons of principle that Turkey felt the need to vote against the resolution. As to the text itself, we have already shared with the members of the Council our detailed views and objections regarding several aspects of the resolution, so I will not repeat them. I have also conveyed them in writing to the presidency of the Council in our previous consultations.

We look forward to the day when the Cyprus issue is solved along well-established United Nations parameters on the basis of a new partnership within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation in line with the political equality of the two parties. The Turkish Cypriots, by voting "yes" in the referendum in 2004, have proven that they want a just and lasting comprehensive settlement. Once again, they are prepared not to spare any effort to achieve a durable and equitable solution. We very much hope that the Greek Cypriots will respond positively to the call of the Turkish Cypriots.

The President (*spoke in Russian*): There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.